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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	EB-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	STR-18	SIL-01	INRE-00	OPM-01
	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/066 W			

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P 182044Z AUG 89
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7954
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 12458

SOUTHCOR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PTER, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: ELN ANNOUNCES UNILATERAL "CEASEFIRE," BUT
SAYS MAY CONTINUE BOMBING OIL PIPELINE

1. (U) IN A CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENT THE CASTROITE ELN
GUERRILLA GROUP HAS PROMISED TO BEGIN A UNILATERAL
"CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES" ON AUGUST 25. IN 1989 THE
ELN HAS BEEN THE MOST VIOLENTLY ACTIVE OF THE FOUR MAJOR
GUERRILLA GROUPS. THE AUGUST 17 COMMUNIQUE SPECIFICALLY
PROMISED THAT THE ELN INTENDS TO DISCONTINUE SABOTAGE
ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOC-RUN COLOMBIAN PETROLEUM
COMPANY (ECOPETROL). NEVERTHELESS, THE GUERRILLA GROUP
"RESERVED THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE FIGHTING THE
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MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES." THIS ABSURD STIPULATION MAY
MEAN THAT THE GROUP COULD CONTINUE BOMBING THE CANO
LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE, ITS FAVORITE TERRORIST

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200201334

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ACTIVITY IN 1988-1989.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE ELN'S CHOICE OF TIMING FOR ISSUING ITS CURIOUS CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT IS LUDICROUS. FAR FROM DISPLAYING A WILLINGNESS TO CEASE HOSTILITIES, THE GUERRILLA GROUP ON AUGUST 14-15 LAUNCHED A SERIES OF EXTREMELY VICIOUS RAIDS IN A CLUSTER OF NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS (SEE BOGOTA 12139 AND 12167). ALSO, BY BURNING DOZENS OF BUSES AND TRUCKS IN MAJOR NORTHERN ROADS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, ELN ACTIVITIES HAVE REDUCED BOTH COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE TRAFFIC IN THAT AREA TO ALMOST 50 PERCENT. IN 1989 THE ELN HAS BEEN THE ONLY GUERRILLA GROUP OB DURATELY TO REJECT THE BARCO ADMINISTRATION'S PEACE PLAN (SEE BOGOTA 12172). IN THE ABSENCE OF REAL EVIDENCE OF THE ELN'S DESIRE FOR PEACE, THE GROUP'S ANNOUNCEMENT SEEMS TO US A CLUMSY PLOY TO GET THE ARMED FORCES' "OPERATION JUPITER" OFF ITS BACK (SEE BOGOTA 12308).
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